

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1101
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jimmy D. "Jim" Ragland
of Cookeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jimmy D. "Jim" Ragland; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ragland was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ragland served with acumen and alacrity as a College Football Coach at West Virginia University, Texas Technological University, the University of Tampa, Memphis State University, and Tennessee Technological University (TTU), where he earned the respect of his fellow coaches and players alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born on November 12, 1938, Jim Ragland graduated from Central High School, where he played quarterback on the football team; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous athlete, Jim Ragland played quarterback for the Tennessee Technological University football team; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ragland set several TTU football records as quarterback, and he remains atop many statistical categories in TTU record books; and

WHEREAS, a three-year football letterman, Jim Ragland graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a bachelor's degree in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Coach Ragland was named the Tennessee Sports Writers Association's Coach of Year following his magnificent performance during the 1992 season, and in 1993, he led the Golden Eagles to an 8-3 record and guided them to a #22 finish in Division I-AA Football; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Jim Ragland was named the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year in 1992 and 1993 and the Kodak I-AA Region 3 Coach of the Year; he was also a Finalist for the Division I-AA National Coach of the Year Award in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Coach Ragland was inducted into the Tennessee Technological University Sports Hall of Fame, a testament to his immeasurable contributions to TTU athletics and the Cookeville community; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Jim Ragland was an active member of the Collegeseide Church of Christ, which he faithfully served for many years; and

WHEREAS, donating his time and talents to many noteworthy organizations and causes, he co-founded the Golden Eagles Scramble, an annual golf tournament which raises money for TTU athletics; an avid fisherman, he also created and established the Golden Eagle Bass Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ragland was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ragland was preceded in death by his mother, Rachel Watson Ragland; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ragland is survived by his two sons, Chris Ragland and wife Sally, and Brad Ragland; his father, John Ragland and wife Martha; his sister, Sue Barron and husband Jim; a nephew, Greg Hollingsworth and wife Lynn; a niece, Debbie Hopkins and husband Jim; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ragland epitomized the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ragland leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jimmy D. "Jim" Ragland, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ragland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.